

ABSTRACT

An apparatus and method to net food products in shirred tubular casing, in order to create a highly-dimpled food product. A filling horn, shir housing, and netting tube allow for the extrusion of food products into an edible tubular collagen film, which itself expands into a netting of a smaller diameter than that of the film. As the food product under pressure expands against the tubular film, it presses through the spaces in the netting to create a dimpled appearance. After the food product has been further processed, the netting is removed, leaving the food product with a highly-dimpled appearance.

10

576034.DOC